(i) Promotion of mutual goodwill

(ii) Understanding procedures of US Air Force

(iii) familiarisation with equipment available with US Air Force

(iv) Learning from the capabilities and experience of U.S. Air Force

(c) Two exercises were held at Agra:

(i) Ex Balance Iroquois

(ii) Ex Cope India

It would not bo in the national interest to give details of number of Aircrafts and Air Force personnel of both services, that took part in these joint exercises.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It would not be in the national interest to give details of such joint exercises, which are being planned.

Vacating Loonda Post in LoC, Kashmir

1513. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on July 29, Indian Infantry troops backed by Indian Air Force air power launched a massive attack on the Loonda post in machal sector on the Indian side of the Line of Control in Kashmir to get rid of the Pakistani troops who had occupied this strategic post; and

(b) if so, whether the Pak troops had occupied the post in another minikargil like operation without being detected, if so, whether any inquiry into the mini intrusion and occupation of the strategic post has been caused and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) It is not factually correct that the Pakistan troops had occupied a strategic post on our side of the Line of Control which necessitated a massive attack by Indian troops and air force on Loonda post in Machal sector. However, in the last week of July 2002, there was a minor Pakistan intrusion, approximately 800 meters on our side of the Line of Control in

the area of Point 3260, which is 1800 metre East of Loonda post. The intrusion was evicted by appropriate action of ground troops and Air Force on 2nd August 2002.

Point 3260 is not considered tactically important and viable for physical occupation by our own troops. Being in close proximity of the Line of Control and the area not being physically occupied, Pakistan troops had intruded into this area. However, since the area is regularly patrolled by our own troops, they observed presence of some Pakistan troops in the area of Point 3260 on 26th July 2002, and suitable action was taken to evict the intrusion and to restore the sanctity of the Line of Control. As such, no enquiry was ordered into the incident.

It would not be correct to draw a parallel of this minor incursion with the Pakistan intrusion in Kargil.

Persons killed during Encounter with Terrorists

†1514. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civilians, soldiers, para-military personnels killed during encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and other places during last one year; and

(b) the relief provided/propose to be provided by Government to them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The details of Army personnel killed during last one year (1st November, 2001 to 13th November, 2002) are as under:

Officers	Junior Commissioned Officers	Other Ranks	Total
25	24	239	288

Casualty figures of 2002 may be subject to minor modification.

Number of civilians and security personnel killed in Jammu and Kashmir during the period 1.11.2001 to 31.10.2002.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.